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FLOOR DEBATE

January 23, 2002 LB 259

kind of cuts shall be made in the state budget.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Suppose it becomes necessary for the state to increase a tax which the state levies, a sales or income tax. What then? There will be two or three taxes the Legislature is responsible for. Where the people can vote to tax themselves, let them. That's all that my amendment will do. It touches nothing else in the bill. Whatever is authorized under the bill remains untouched. It just puts the people in the affected county in a position to state, by way of their vote, whether they think the county board ought to do this or not. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President, members. I rise in support of the bill and also the amendment. I struggled at first with the debate of this bill and...and the fact that it does raise revenue, and I heard some colleagues say that any conservative member would vote no on this bill because it stands to raise taxes and that certainly got my attention. However, I think that if we're going to expect local governments to provide for themselves, we need to provide them with the tools that, in turn, provide them...that provide...so they can provide for themselves. And, no, I don't want to raise taxes and I don't think that this is necessarily a vote to raise taxes. This is a vote for local control, that enables local entities, counties in this case, to provide at the...after the vote of the people, and I think that that is important. It makes local officials more accountable. It...it's, overall, I think a good format and good concept to adopt here at the state level. I think...I guess I draw a parallel to freedom of speech. We allow the freedom of speech. We may not like what...what people say all the time, but there is that freedom of speech and we have to allow that to take place whether we happen to agree with what's being said or not. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Smith. Mr. Clerk, items for the record?